

From: **Gary Wilson** <Gary.Wilson@edinburgh.gov.uk>
Date: Sun, 28 Mar 2021 at 23:12
Subject: Covid 19 Emergency Measures - Newcraighall Road

Dear Councillors and Stakeholders,

Covid-19 Bus Priority Rapid Deployment Fund

Newcraighall Road Proposed Bus Priority Scheme

In July last year the Scottish Government announced that a £10million national Bus Priority Rapid Deployment Fund (BPRDF) would be made available to help local authorities protect and, where possible, improve bus journey times to make services even more attractive and reliable. The fund focuses on key radial corridors that link the city with the region (prioritising routes that traffic modelling evaluation has demonstrated are likely to suffer from elevated level congestion).

Evidence is already showing that social distancing guidance, especially regarding public transport, is leading to an increase in car use, and as restrictions are further relaxed, additional significant increases in car volumes are expected; where the consequent congestion will be hard to manage and could potentially be overwhelm parts of the city.

Edinburgh has worked with partner local authorities across the region to develop a substantial package of interventions. These target improvements to bus journey times and reliability in order to protect public transport viability for key workers and those without access to car. As COVID-19 restrictions change the proposed enhancement in public transport infrastructure will hopefully encourage more people to choose public transport and sustainable methods of travel which will help mitigate the expected increases in car usage and congestion.

Please be advised that as part of overall emergency measures we are proposing to introduce bus priority measures on Newcraighall Road. The measures proposed will ensure this key part of the road network is kept clear, prioritising public transport. The proposals have the aim of providing buses with reduced journey times and improved reliability, to ensure that services remain responsive to public health measures and reliable during the current Covid-19 pandemic. The Council has worked in partnership with East Lothian Council, bus operators and Jacobs consultants to identify and evaluate this measure. A robust monitoring plan will be in place to ensure that any issues that may be encountered can be resolved quickly.

I have attached the proposed designs for the scheme. In summary it shows:

- Introduction of westbound bus lane on Newcraighall Road between Fort Kinnaird and The Wisp.

Given the urgency to make the required changes any comments relating to these proposals should be received by **1700hrs on Tuesday 6 April** to transport.publictransaccess@edinburgh.gov.uk

All feedback will be reviewed and where possible the scheme will be further refined. Feedback will be summarised in an assessment feedback form which will be presented to the Council Incident Management Team for approval. Please note that we will be unable to respond to individual emails.

If the proposal is approved for implementation, publicity will then be undertaken so that local people are aware of the changes. The Public Transport team inbox will help us to manage any feedback around proposals – transport.publictransaccess@edinburgh.gov.uk

The introduction of, or changes to, any restrictions will be implemented under emergency delegated decision-making powers using a Temporary Traffic Regulation Order.

Regards

Bus Priority Rapid Deployment Team